

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-16, and 18-22 were pending and examined. Applicants have canceled claims 1, 3-4, 11, and 18-22. Claims 2, 5-6, 8-10, and 12-16 are pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated Claims 3-4 and 11-12 as reciting allowable subject matter.

With respect to claims 3 and 4, Applicants have rewritten independent claim 2 to incorporate the elements of claim 3 and the elements of claim 4. Because the claim 3 and claim 4 elements were mutually exclusive, claim 2 has been amended to recite either of the dependent claim elements.

With respect to claims 11-12, Applicants have rewritten independent claim 8 to incorporate the elements of claim 11, now canceled.

Claim objections

The claim objections are moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1, 3-4, 11, and 18-22

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

The cancellation of Claims 1 and 19-22 renders the Section 101 rejection of Claims 1 and 19-22 moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Section 102 rejection of Claims 2, 5-6, 8-10, 13-16, and 18-19 are moot in view of the amendments referred to above and the cancellation of the other pending claims.

Consistent with the Examiner's appropriate determination of the allowability of claims 3, 4, and 11, Applicants submit that the remaining pending claims, all of which now depend on either amended claim 2 or amended claim 8, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe this response includes a reply to each ground of objection and rejection. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicants have submitted a fee extending the period for response. If, however, the fee is missing or insufficient, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0096 of Jackson Walker L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.236.2019.

Respectfully submitted,
JACKSON WALKER L.L.P.
Attorney for Applicants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. P. Lally', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph P. Lally
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